

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
HUMAN SERVICES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

May 14, 1998
MAG Offices
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

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| Lorenzo Aguirre, City of El Mirage | *Mary Ann Lavine, Glendale Community Council |
| *Skip Bingham, DES/RSA | Stephen MacFarlane, City of Phoenix |
| Karin Bishop, Valley of the Sun United Way | Mary Enriquez for Doris Marshall, City of Phoenix |
| Kyle Moore for Gene Burns, DES/ACYF | Jose Mercado, DES/Aging & Adult Administration |
| Tom Canasi, City of Tempe | Sheryl Pieper, City of Tolleson |
| *Sylvia Cartsonis, Northwest Valley Regional Community Council | Diane Anastos for Esther Pineda, City of Avondale |
| Tanya Collins, City of Mesa | Ed Portnoy, City of Scottsdale |
| Laura Guild, DES/CSA | *Suzanne Quigley, Mesa United Way |
| Steve Wise for Kate Hanley, Tempe Community Council | *Lili Schuett, Town of Gilbert |
| *Rosemary Ybarra Hernandez, City of Surprise | Wayne Tormala, City of Phoenix |
| *Gloria Hurtado, City of Phoenix | Pat Tyrrell, City of Chandler |
| Jeannie Jertsen, Maricopa County | *Rebecca Van Marter, The Community Forum |
| Jim Knaut for Mary Lynn Kasunic, Area Agency on Aging | *Dianne Wagemann, DES/DDD |
| Stuart Kent, City of Glendale | |

*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS PRESENT

Councilmember Sal DiCiccio, City of Phoenix
Jeff Taylor, The Salvation Army, Harbor Light
Carol Kratz, MAG

1. Call to Order

Chair Karin Bishop asked Wayne Tormala, City of Phoenix, to chair the meeting, as she was unable to remain for the entire meeting. Mr. Tormala called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Members and one guest introduced themselves.

2. Approval of March 5, 1998 Technical Committee Minutes

The motion by Steve Wise, seconded by Laura Guild, to approve the minutes of March 5, 1998 was carried unanimously.

3. Report on Public Input Meeting

A televised public meeting was hosted by the City of Scottsdale on April 23, 1998. Comment was also solicited by e-mail, mail and from a 24-hour telephone line. Seventeen people testified at that meeting, two e-mails and six telephone messages were received. Staff summarized the needs mentioned. A number of issues were raised concerning domestic violence and the need for a comprehensive plan to prevent violence and to effectively address what happens with the victims and the abusers. Affordable housing and the need to protect any reductions in Social Services Block Grant funds were mentioned by several speakers. Transportation continues to be identified as a need, along with the effectiveness of case management and its related services through the community action programs. Several programs were highlighted as effective means of addressing teen parents. Training and support services for TANF recipients were identified along with a safety net of services to help TANF clients to become and remain self-sufficient. Several speakers discussed concerns with the lack of adequate behavioral health services and one spoke about federal changes in the SSI program. School-based prevention programs were supported. Telephone and e-mail responses identified services for the elderly as important, the need for dental services, glasses and car repairs.

Ken Anderson of the Maricopa County Needs Assessment Project reported on preliminary data for the 1996-1997 needs assessment survey. He reported that 50% of households statewide and 49% in Maricopa County had received social services in the last year. The number of households receiving social services in the past year by planning area were: 51% in the Northwest, 51% in the Southwest, 38% in the Northeast, 45% in the Southeast, 46% in North Phoenix, 53% in Central Phoenix and 72% in South Phoenix. Mr. Anderson reported on the percentage of households with unmet needs as: 25% of households with at least 1 unmet need; 15% were in the Northeast, 26% in the Northwest, 27% in the Southwest, 22% in the Southeast, 22% in North Phoenix, 27% in Central Phoenix and 61% in South Phoenix.

The highest unmet need was 63% of households still needing dental services - historically the highest unmet need. Other unmet needs include: transportation 11%, Housing 15%, employment 18%, education 18%, self-functioning 6%, collective safety 10%, medical 17%, counseling 10%, basic needs 9% and information and referral 16%.

This survey is a random digit dialing statewide methodology which surveyed 5,000 people statewide and 2525 in Maricopa County. The study was conducted between September 19, 1996 and September 19, 1997. None of the questions were related to welfare reform.

4. Review of 1999-2000 Problem Statements

The review of the problem statements will be deferred to another meeting. Staff requested the opportunity to investigate needs for the developmental disabilities target group before the next meeting.

HSTC members discussed the format of the problem statements to resolve any confusion over which of the statements were funded by the Social Services Block Grant funds and which were identified as problems without SSBG funding. There was some confusion that problems with high priorities has no funding attached; funds for these problems may come from another source and SSBG funds may not be appropriate while the problem is part of the comprehensive assessment of a particular target group.

Gloria Hurtado suggested that we identify which problems are SSBG-funded. Identifying a comprehensive list of problems assists other funding sources to put needs into perspective for the target group. Jim Knaut supported that position, indicating that the comprehensive list is important, regardless of funding source. Steve Wise commented that this comprehensive list was the only place that such a list is developed, and is helpful to other planners. Tanya Collins concurred with Ms. Hurtado, requesting that we continue the comprehensive list, but identify the SSBG-funded problems. Staff will present some alternatives at a future meeting.

The target groups of developmental disabilities and persons with disabilities present challenges in terms of committee representation and information regarding needs. Staff asked for suggestions of HSTC members regarding these groups. Staff will contact the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities and the Maricopa Advisory Council on Developmental Disabilities regarding target group needs. Ed Portnoy commented that it would be helpful to add a representative the Maricopa Advisory Council for needed expertise. In the short-term, we may combine the target groups for purposes of discussion and developing recommendations.

5. Planning for Potential Reductions in SSBG Funds

DES informed MAG that the Administration and the U.S. Senate are recommending a 20% reduction in SSBG funds. If this reduction is not modified by the U.S. House of Representatives, it is possible that our locally planned funds will be reduced by almost \$600,000 for services beginning July 1, 1998. DES has requested that we develop a contingency plan in the event that this cut occurs. Ms. Hurtado suggested that we wait until we know the exact funding levels before trying to anticipate Congress' actions. She supported sending letters to the congressional delegation, as Phoenix has done and suggested that the lobbying efforts for the House may result in no cuts.

Jeannie Jertsen informed HSTC members that the Community Services Block Grant lobbyist in Washington stated to the ACA conference attendees that the elected officials in Washington do not have a good idea about what these funds are used for. We should develop an annual SSBG report which provides them with information about the importance of this funding source.

6. Legislative Report

Chairman Karin Bishop reviewed the activities at the legislature. The welfare reform bills, SB1082 and HB2620. The latter bill appropriates TANF and General Fund money to increase short term crisis assistance, job training, wheels to work, micro-enterprise, child care subsidies to families up to 165% of the federal poverty line, transportation, vocational education grants, food banks, personal skills development, and counseling for non-custodial fathers. Child care assistance for those in educational programs has been extended. SB1082 further refines the privatization effort of the previous session. The Procurement Board, appointed as a result of SB1357 last session, is charged with developing the RFP for the private vendor to deliver the TANF program in 12 cities and towns. They identified a number of critical policy issues during their attempt to develop the RFP and requested that the legislature address those points before the Procurement Board proceeded with its task. Guadalupe was excluded from the pilot area. There were very few changes to the legislation. The flat grant amounts remain the same. The vendor can utilize 25% of caseload reduction savings as incentive. The pilot will operate in Maricopa County for 2 years and for 2 years in a rural site. An evaluation will be conducted by an independent evaluator at the end of the 4 years. The private pilot will proceed with or without the federal food stamp and Medicaid waiver approvals. Changes were also made in eligibility determination criteria to equalize the EMPOWER and private programs.

Several domestic violence bills also passed. SB1175 provides counseling for the first offense, and supervised probation for second offense. Third offenses will be considered a felony with 4 months of jail time and work release; the fourth offense is a felony with 8 months of jail and work release. Any domestic violence convictions can be considered for any other domestic violence crime. HB2142 addresses protective orders in terms of who qualifies, filing fees, length of validity, protection of addresses, prohibition of firearms and counseling. Model Full Faith and Credit 13-3602R regulations include validity of protective orders from other states and clarifies definitions and use. SB1278 orders fingerprinting of defendant's 10 fingers.

7. Transportation and Welfare Reform

Transportation has been identified as one of the major barriers to TANF clients successfully completing training and finding and keeping employment. The reauthorization of the Intermodal Surface Efficiency Transportation Act or ISTEA is now entitled the Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21st Century or TEA-21. This legislation includes funding for welfare-to-work transportation programs. HSTC members volunteered to participate in committee efforts related to this task. Those individuals include: Tanya Collins, Mesa; Jeannie Jertsen/Phyllis Smith, Maricopa County and a representative from Phoenix.

8. Domestic Violence Regional Plan

The death of a domestic violence victim has raised community awareness of the critical lack of shelter beds and the need for a coordinated community response throughout the region. As a result, the City of Phoenix, through Councilmember Cody Williams, has requested that MAG prepare a regional domestic violence plan. A special HSCC/HSTC meeting was convened in April to hear presentations from a number of shelter providers and advocates. As a result, a request was approved by the HSCC and MAG Management Committee to develop such a plan. The Regional Council will hear the request at their May meeting.

Councilmember Sal DiCiccio of Phoenix spoke to the need to do a regional plan. He commented that there are funds available through the City of Phoenix, which has made available \$1 million in funds which will require a match. These funds will be available to all eight shelters countywide. In addition, the McKinney Continuum of Care application process is under way and funding will be available through this mechanism. Funds from the McKinney Act can be used for transitional beds, operation costs and support services.

HSTC members supported the need to work together with the Phoenix committee, the County Attorney and the Governor's Office of Domestic Violence Prevention. They also supported the regional Continuum of Care process which is a collaborative effort of Phoenix, Mesa, Maricopa County, DES and MAG.

Tom Canasi stated that it is extremely important to look at the first contact with the victim and needed services. Tempe uses crisis response teams which are trained to provide support to the police departments in domestic violence situations. He suggested sharing best practices among the cities. The County Attorney's Domestic Violence Protocol for police departments provides a guideline for the law enforcement related activities, and links the activities of the police departments to victim services. He mentioned that we have done similar things before with the curfew and graffiti ordinances. Developing a regional domestic violence plan offers us the opportunity to examine best practices and help communities to link to each other. We must focus on the entire continuum of needed services.

Laura Guild commented that the timing is right to look at a coordinated community response to

domestic violence. We have the protocol from the County Attorney's office and the activities of the Phoenix task force. There are a number of unconnected activities around the Valley. She stated that there is a model community response program in Yavapai County and offered to share that information with the committee. Services must be coordinated, effective and accountable.

Members of the Technical Committee volunteered to serve on the domestic violence committee: Gloria Hurtado, Karin Bishop, Laura Gild, Arminda Ayala (Phoenix), Tom Canasi, Karin Kurtz, Stuart Kent, Rosemary Ybarra Hernandez (to be confirmed), Esther Pineda (to be confirmed) and Pat Tyrrell. A representative of the Area Agency on Aging will participate related to elder abuse.

HSTC members suggested others to invite: shelter providers, law enforcement, attorneys, judges, Cynthia Peters of Phoenix's Parks and Recreation Department At-Risk Program, members of the Domestic Violence Coalition, the Executive Director's Council of homeless service providers, CASA. Tom Canasi suggested that the committee meet prior to others being invited to discuss the structure and process to develop the regional plan. We want to be inclusive in order to represent the issues of such a complex problem, while maintaining an organized approach to maximize the time devoted to the plan.

Gloria Hurtado told committee members that there is a domestic violence conference in Austin, Texas in August. She indicated that the purpose of the conference was to share information on a coordinated community response. Members of the HSTC may wish to attend.

At this point in the agenda, Mr. Jeff Taylor of the Salvation Army's Harbor Light Program, addressed the members of the Technical Committee. Councilmember DiCiccio of Phoenix suggested that Mr. Taylor speak to the committee. Harbor Light has 20 beds available for domestic violence victims who have drug/alcohol problems. Nine of ten abusers have alcohol/drug related problems in domestic violence incidents. He would like to partner with Sojourner so that any mothers who are turned away from domestic violence shelters and who have drug/alcohol problems would be referred to Harbor Light. The Salvation Army has clothes, diapers, cribs, a DES day care facility on site and is well prepared to shelter domestic violence victims. He proposes a six-month project. None of the current shelter programs offer chemical dependency counseling, according to Mr. Taylor. He would like to partner with the domestic violence shelters in the valley to offer shelter for the victims and allow the domestic violence counselors to come on site to counsel for domestic violence-related issues. Ms. Jertsen asked how the program would be funded. Mr. Taylor commented that Harbor Light has lost funds from ComCare and private donations because of the upheaval in the behavioral health area. They are exploring different program and funding options to replace those funds. Harbor Light has a 100-bed facility with 30 empty drug/alcohol beds. Harbor Light is a part of the Stargate project which is up for renewal under the McKinney Continuum of Care application. Ms. Hurtado suggested that Harbor Light apply for funding under this grant.

Ms. Hurtado also mentioned that the ANCHoR system which is scheduled to go on-line at the end of the summer will electronically link the homeless and domestic violence shelters so that bed availability will be known immediately. Three domestic violence shelters are among the first agencies to participate. The system will ultimately include 36-39 agencies. The system will triage calls so that domestic violence personnel take those calls; if the shelters are full, they will be able to refer the caller to an available bed at a homeless shelter. Mr. Taylor commented that he would like to have Harbor Light participate in the ANCHoR system.

9. Call to the Public

Mr. Taylor commented during the discussion of Agenda Item #8.

10. Announcements

Carol Kratz announced that Barbara Carpenter has left MAG and will be missed. HSTC members were encouraged to inform any interested candidates. The joint meeting of the Technical and Coordinating Committees will take place at the MAG Office at 2:00 p.m. on June 18, 1998.